

# Sligo Joint Policing Commitee



## Annual Report 2016

The Sligo Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was re-established in 2015 under the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with the Joint Policing Committee Guidelines as amended in August 2014. The overall aim is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters effecting the policing of Sligo County Council’s administrative area and to keep under review the levels and patterns of, and the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area.

## Membership of County Sligo JPC

The Joint Policing Committee consists of 25 members (i.e.) 13 Elected Members of Sligo Co. Council, 2 Oireachtas Members, 2 Local Authority Officials, 2 nominees of the Garda Commissioner, and 6 community nominees.

### Local Authority Elected Members

- Cllr Rosaleen O’Grady, Chairperson
- Cllr Keith Henry
- Cllr Paul Taylor
- Cllr Jerry Lundy
- Cllr Martin Baker
- Cllr Hubert Keaney
- Cllr Dara Mulvey
- Cllr Marie Casserly
- Cllr Thomas Healy
- Cllr Gino O’Boyle
- Cllr Margaret Gormley
- Cllr Michael Clarke
- Cllr Sean MacManus

### Oireachtas Elected Member

- Deputy Eamon Scanlon TD
- Deputy Tony McLoughlin, TD

### Local Authority Officials

- Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Margaret McConnell, Senior Executive Officer

### An Garda Síochána Members

- Chief Superintendent Michael Clancy
- Superintendent Mary Murray

### Public Participation Network (PPN) Members

- Vanessa Clarke
- David Tuffy
- Patrick Benson
- Tom McGettrick
- Pat Conway
- Alan McMenamin



## Steering Group

Each JPC must establish a steering group, consisting of the Chairperson of the JPC, a representative of An Garda Síochána, and the Chief Executive of the Local Authority or a person nominated by him or her. The function of the steering group is to facilitate the efficient functioning of the JPC and in particular to ensure that it retains a clear focus on strategic and collaborative action. It also arranges procedures for the appointment of any new or replacement members, draws up the agenda and arranges for documentation for meetings, and is the point of contact for co-operation and joint action with other JPC's and with any subcommittees of the JPC. The members of the Sligo Joint Policing Committee Steering Group are:

- Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady, Sligo JPC Chairperson
- Chief Superintendent Michael Clancy, An Garda Síochána
- Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive, Sligo County Council

## Activities of the Committee & Steering Group

At its inaugural meeting held on 18/12/15, the following business was attended to by the Committee:

- appointment of JPC Chairperson
- appointment of JPC Vice - Chairperson
- presentation by Sergeant Pat Conway, Garda National JPC Committees Monitoring Office, Community Relations and Community Policing on the JPC Guidelines
- presentation by Ms Therese Hogg, Blue Zebra (who undertook Cross Border research studies in 2014, under Peace 111 Programme into policing and community safety)
- adoption of Standing Orders
- agreed to initiate development of Strategic Plan and Work Plan via the Steering Group

Meetings of the Sligo Joint Policing Committee Steering Group took place on 19th January, 2016 and 23rd November, 2016. Business conducted related primarily to the development of a Draft Six Year Strategic Plan for the consideration of the JPC, which was signed off by the Steering Group at its meeting on 23/11/16.

The Joint Policing Committee met on Friday 16th December, 2016, the main business which took place was the consideration of the Draft six year Strategic Plan, also a presentation was made to the Committee by Mr. Sean O'Connor, Northwest Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force (NWRDATF) Co-ordinator.

## Draft Strategic Plan 2017 -2022

A presentation on the draft Strategic Plan, as recommended by the Steering Group, was made to the members of the Joint Policing Committee at its meeting on 16/12/16, which addressed:

- Background
- Overview of Revised JPC Guidelines
- Demographics of County Sligo
- Crime Trends in Sligo District
- Mission Statement
- Strategic Priorities
- Monitoring & Evaluation

The Draft Plan identified five strategic Priority areas for actions:

- Crime Prevention
- Community Policing
- Road Safety
- Public Safety
- Communication & Promotion of JPC

Key objectives were identified under each of the priority areas, to be delivered over the life-time of the Plan. It also identified lead agencies and key partners in respect of each of the deliverables, to be over-seen by the Joint Policing Committee.

The members of the JPC agreed on the following priorities / actions for inclusion in the Draft Strategic Plan:

### Priority Area 1: Crime Prevention

Priority	Action
1.1	Audit of current status of CCTV in Sligo Town and encourage the provision of CCTV in other towns
1.2	Encourage all businesses to install CCTV and/or engage in a Business Watch Scheme
1.3	Highlight through the media the key precautions & simple steps that should be taken by homeowners
1.4	Identify areas where additional public lighting is required.
1.5	Encourage the reporting of anti social behaviour
1.6	Ensure that there is a visible policing presence in areas associated with anti social behaviour

1.7	Target local crime reduction and prevention initiatives, working with communities and business groups
1.8	Implement measures to combat serious crime
1.9	Support public awareness campaign about crime prevention initiatives
1.10	Liaise with the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDTF)
1.11	Identify crime and trend patterns in relation to the farming sector and consider measures to address crime affecting the farming sector as appropriate
1.12	Examine initiatives to address fear of crime
1.13	Examine initiatives to address hate crime and sectarianism

## Priority Area 2: Community Policing

Priority	Action
2.1	Promote awareness within the farming community of new preventive activities to reduce farm thefts
2.2	Promote the establishment of Community Alert Groups throughout the County, energise existing groups and promote the use of Community Text Alerts.
2.3	Adopt the Crime Prevention Ambassador Programme, or similar alternative programme for Older people
2.4	Engage with Age Friendly Ireland and work towards alleviating the fear of crime amongst the elderly
2.5	Examine adopted Estate Management strategies and initiatives with a view to developing a co-ordinated approach between Sligo County Council, Garda Síochána and HSE
2.6	Hold a series of community meetings to raise awareness of anti social behaviour
2.7	Support the retention of a Garda presence in rural areas
2.8	Interagency networking with communities to respond to urban and rural community safety concerns
2.9	Research into the community safety concerns and crime to inform evidence-based planning
2.10	Set up youth engagement initiatives
2.11	Explore the potential of cross-border collaboration in relation to community safety initiatives.

### Priority Area 3: Road Safety

Priority	Action
3.1	Examine the enforcement of legislation with regards to double parking, parking in disabled parking areas and loading bays.
3.2	Implementation of Road Traffic legislation and enforcement
3.3	Continue to support Road Safety Education and Awareness Initiatives
3.4	Continue to review speed limits across the county with a particular emphasis on housing estates.
3.5	Review road accidents in the county for the last two years.
3.6	Road Safety Authority to make regular reports to JPC
3.7	Organise distribution points for free RSA Hi-Viz vests.

### Priority Area 4: Public Safety

Priority	Action
4.1	Review lighting in public areas
4.2	Examine the enforcement of legislation with regards to litter with the aim of creating a better environment for our citizens and those visiting the country
4.3	Enforce and review the operation of derelict site laws
4.4	Increase the number of Gardaí in rural areas
4.5	Develop protocols for addressing anti-social behaviour in public open space areas and parks
4.6	Develop protocols in respect of public events between An Garda Síochána and Sligo County Council

### Priority Area 5: Communication and Promotion of Joint Policy Committee

Priority	Action
5.1	Adopt, publish and launch the Strategic Work Plan
5.2	Host a public Joint Policing Committee meeting
5.3	Promotion of JPC through Sligo County Council website and the local media
5.4	Facilitate JPC input to policy submissions as appropriate

The members of the Joint Policing adopted the draft Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022 at its meeting on 16/12/16, subject to minor amendments, and agreed to proceed to public consultation on the Draft Plan.

The JPC also agreed the following schedule of dates for meetings in 2017:

31/03	10.30am	Enniscrone
16/06	10.30am	North Sligo,
29/09	10.30am	Ballymote,
15/12	10.30am	Sligo